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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2005

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Talabani: Coalition May Pull Out of Iraq in 2006 - Sabah
Pakistani Delegation Goes to Israel - Hurriyet
King Abdullah Calls for 'Jihad' against Terror - Sabah
Jordanians Denounce Zarkawi - Hurriyet 11/12
Paris Riots Spread to Athens - Aksam
3,000 Policemen Besiege Paris - Sabah
Rice Celebrates Birthday in Riyadh - Star
Queen Elisabeth is al-Qaida's New Target - Aksam
Clinton Attends Rabin Remembrance in Tel Aviv - Aksam
Secret CIA Torture Center in Morocco - Sabah

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Taliban Enters Afghan Parliament - Milliyet
Pakistan Earthquake Victims Abducted for 'Jihad' - Sabah
Sirleaf the First Woman President in Africa - Hurriyet 11/12

OPINION MAKERS

Talabani: Sudden Iraqi Withdrawal Will Bring Disaster - Cumhuriyet
Al-Qaida: Queen Elizabeth an Enemy of Islam - Radikal
US Praises AKP - Radikal 11/11
US Rejects Military Operation in northern Iraq - Zaman
US Warns against Cross-Border Operation in Iraq - Yeni Safak 11/11
Bloody Operation in Baghdad: 33 Killed - Yeni Safak 11/11

Woman Suicide Bomber Captured in Baghdad - Cumhuriyet
Support for Bush Declines - Yeni Safak 11/11
Zarkawi Claims Amman Hotel Bombings - Zaman
Peaceful Rallies Continue in Baku - Zaman
Palestinians Demand UN Investigation into Arafat Death -
Zaman
Annan Visits Iraq - Radikal
Lawyers Quit Saddam's Defense Team - Zaman

BRIEFING

Flory Visits Ankara: New measures against the PKK were discussed at the High-Level Defense Group (HLDG) meeting between Turkey and the United States last week, Saturday papers report. The head of the US delegation, US Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Policy Peter

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Flory, said that the real solution that Turkey is looking for 'will take some time.' Flory pointed to the Iraqi Government as the main address for the PKK problem. 'We are working against terrorism in Iraq on many fronts, including the struggle against the PKK. The Iraqi Government is responsible for dealing with this problem. The PKK problem is part of a more comprehensive project. Our goal is to maintain Iraq's unitary structure. The Turkish Government well understands our position. It will, however, take some time to bring about a real solution,' Flory said. Flory said that although the Iraq-Turkey border is an issue for those two countries, the US 'does not believe that a cross-border operation by Turkey would contribute to Iraq's stability, nor would it solve the PKK problem over the long run. It wouldn't be a good thing,' Flory concluded.

Wilson Hearing at US Senate: President Bush's nominee as US Ambassador to Turkey, Ross Wilson, told a hearing at the

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Senate Foreign Relations Committee that his most important task will be 'avoiding the creation of unnecessary problems between the United States and Turkey,' "Zaman" reported on Monday. 'Turkey's contribution to the success of Iraq will be more important in 2006 and beyond, and if my appointment is approved, this issue will be my key focus. PKK terrorism poses a threat to Turkey and Iraq. Turkey needs to join the international community in overcoming the problems posed by Iran and Syria and the threat they represent to global peace and security,' Wilson said. Responding to a question on the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate in Istanbul, Wilson said that the US recognizes the ecumenical status of the Patriarchate, and that the US will continue to advocate for the reopening of Halki Seminary.

Semdinli Bombing: A Turkish court charged a military sergeant and a former PKK militant with involvement in last week's bombing of a bookstore in the southeastern city of Semdinli, papers reported on Sunday. The ruling AK Party government, acting on suspicion that security forces may have acted outside the law and played a role in the bombing, pledged a full probe into the incident in which one person was killed. Dailies say that the bombing recalled the 'Susurluk' scandal in 1996, which erupted after a car carrying a senior policeman, a wanted gang leader, and a parliamentarian crashed in western Turkey. The ensuing probes revealed shady links between politicians, police, military officials, and criminal gangs. Officials said a local court in Semdinli had charged a civilian and a sergeant on Saturday, but released two other jandarma officials who had been detained after the incident. The civilian was charged with carrying out the bombing. He was identified by the media as a former member of the outlawed PKK who had benefited from a repentence law. Newspapers said that police had found three Kalashnikov rifles, two grenades, a detailed map of the province, and a map pinpointing the bombed bookstore in the car of the arrested

men. Kurdish protesters lobbed rocks at the police and chanted slogans in support of the PKK in the aftermath of the bombing. Police fired into the air and sprayed tear gas to disperse the crowd. Main opposition CHP Hakkari lawmaker Esat Canan accused security forces for responsibility in the blasts and the subsequent incidents in Semdinli. Two Turkish-made bombs were found in the car used by the bombers. The car belongs to the jandarma. The name of the shopping arcade and the owner of the store were also found in the car. The owner of the store was a PKK member who had previously served 15 years in prison. A delegation from the ruling AK Party is carrying out an investigation into the bombing and said it will submit a motion on November 15 for a parliamentary inquiry into the incident. On Sunday, security forces detained 24 in the eastern city of Van during an illegal rally held to protest against the Semdinli incidents.

PKK Terrorists Surrender in Silopi: Four terrorists who escaped from the separatist PKK organization surrendered to security forces in Silopi in Turkey's southeastern province of Sirnak, Sunday papers reported. Another terrorist was captured in the southern city of Adana. The four terrorists in Silopi said that the oppression and inhuman treatment within the organization have reached unprecedented levels. During their initial interrogation, the terrorists confessed that there are many others in the organization who are 'biding their time' and looking to escape.

Gul on EU Turkey Reports: Turkey pledged on Thursday to tackle shortcomings in its political and legal reforms after the European Commission said its reform process had 'lost

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momentum,' Friday papers reported. 'Our government is determined to implement the reforms, and to deepen and strengthen our democracy,' Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul said. In its annual progress report on Turkey on Wednesday, the Commission said that the pace of change had slowed in 2005, and that the implementation of reforms is 'uneven.' The report urged Ankara to improve the rights of women, religious minorities, and trade unions, and to stamp out torture. But it also bestowed on Turkey the status of a 'functioning market economy,' a step likely to encourage more foreign investment. Gul welcomed the criticisms in the report as being more 'careful' than in previous years. 'There is no question that anything in the documents published yesterday will block our way to the EU,' Gul said. He warned, however, that Turkey's strategic cooperation with the EU may be overshadowed by some new demands with regard to Cyprus. Meanwhile, State Minister Ali Babacan responded to demands to grant Greek Cypriots access to Turkish ports by saying that Turkey is waiting for steps from the EU before moving ahead.

Gul at Forum for the Future: Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul condemned terrorist attacks in Jordan and Iraq at the 'Forum for the Future' meetings held in the Bahraini capital of Manama, papers report. Gul said that the region had problems that had 'called out for a solution for a long time.' Gul pointed out that enhancing dialogue among the regional countries and the international community will contribute to the reform process. He noted that Turkey has supported the political process in Iraq from the outset, calling for all groups to take part in the process. Gul stressed that the elections in Iraq to be held on December 15 will be closely followed in Turkey. 'Elections will be held in Israel soon. It is important that internal political developments not affect the Middle East peace process,' he added.

ECHR Ruling on Headscarves: The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) in Strasbourg rejected on Thursday the appeal of Leyla Sahin, a student in Istanbul who was prevented from going to medical school because she wears a headscarf. The Court upheld its previous decision, and ruled that the

Turkish ban on headscarves at university is not a violation of human rights.

Turkey Sends Humanitarian Aid to Tal Afar: Turkey sent 624 tons of humanitarian aid, including food and clean-up material, to Iraq late last week, weekend papers report. The Prime Minister's Office said that 200 tons of the aid would be delivered to the Iraqi Red Crescent, while the remaining 424 tons will be delivered to Tal Afar by Turkish and Iraqi Red Crescent officials.

Erdogan to Visit Qatar, Bahrain, Denmark: Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan will pay state visits to Qatar and Bahrain from November 12-14, Erdogan's Office said on Friday. State Minister Kursad Tuzmen, Defense Minister Vecdi Gonul, lawmakers and businessmen will accompany Erdogan during his visits. Erdogan will then fly to Copenhagen on November 14. He will deliver a speech at the NATO Parliamentary Assembly's 51st Annual session on November 15, and meet with Danish PM Anders Fogh Rasmussen.

Putin to Visit Turkey: Russian President Vladimir Putin will pay a working visit to Turkey on November 17, the Interfax news agency reported Friday. During the visit, Putin will meet with the Turkish and Italian prime ministers in ceremonies to mark the official opening of the Blue Stream natural gas pipeline, which crosses the Black Sea.

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